

### REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 35-49 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 16, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 46, 47, 48, and 49 are independent. Claims 35 and 35 have been amended. Claims 47 to 49 have been added. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the action mailed August 24, 2006, is requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

#### **35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections**

Claims 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,425,012 ("Trovato") in view of U.S. Patent 5,888,731 ("Liles") and U.S. Patent 6,336,133 ("Morris").

Claim 35 has been amended to recite a method that includes "determining that an interactive relationship exists between the first user entering the first world and the second user, ... and if an interactive relationship exists, placing the first user entering the first world in a clone of the first world based on the relationship even if the clone in which the first user is placed would otherwise be deemed full." Nothing in Trovato, Liles and Morris provides any disclosure of "placing the first user ... in a clone ... *even if the clone in which the first user is placed would otherwise be deemed full,*" as recited in amended claim 35.

For at least this reason, claim 35 is allowable over Trovato, Liles and Morris.

The foregoing remarks also apply to independent claim 36, which has corresponding limitations, and claim 38 that depends from claim 36.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The applicant acknowledges the examiner's indication that claims 1-30, 37, and 39-46 are considered allowable.

#### **New Claims**

Independent claim 47 recites a method that includes "creating a first world and a distinct second world, wherein each world is a distinct 3D virtual world that presents a 3D graphical scene to users, and wherein multiple users may enter and navigate each 3D virtual world and may interact by moving avatars, interacting and observing the world and other users; creating two or more clones of the first world and two or more clones of the second world, wherein each

clone is an instance of the respective world, allowing any number of users to be in the same world while limiting the number of users in each clone of the world; identifying a first user entering the first world as having a special designation; selecting a clone of the first world in which the first user is to be placed; if the selected clone is full, determining whether the selected clone has extra capacity reserved for use by users having a special designation, and if so, placing the first user entering the first world in the selected clone.”

The applicant submits that none of the cited references disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 47. Independent claims 48 and 49 have corresponding limitations.

### **Conclusion**

The applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

Please apply the \$750.00 excess claim fee and any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 07844-478001.

Respectfully submitted,

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